Numb. 224

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

——— Sicut meus est Mos,
Nescio quid meditans Nugarum, & totus in illis. Hor.

From *Tuesday September* 5. to *Thursday September* 7, 1710.

From my own Apartment, September 6.

AS I was this Morning going out of my House, a little Boy in a black Coat delivered to me the following Letter. Upon asking who he was, he told me, that he belonged to my Lady *Gimcrack*. I did not at first recollect the Name; but, upon Enquiry, found it to be the Widow of Sir *Nicholas*, whose Legacy I lately gave some Account of to the World. The Letter ran thus:

'Mr. *Bickerstaff*,

'I Hope you will not be surprised to receive a Letter from the Widow *Gimcrack*. You know, Sir, that I have lately lost a very whimsical Husband, who I find, by one of your last Week's Papers, was not altogether a Stranger to you. When I married this Gentleman, he had a very handsome Estate; but upon buying a Set of Microscopes, he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society; from which Time I do not remember ever to have heard him speak as other People did, or talk in a Manner that any of his Family could understand him. He used, however, to pass away his Time very innocently in Conversation with several Members of that learned Body; for which Reason I never advised him against their Company for several Years, till at last I found his Brain was quite turned with their Discourses. The first Symptom which he discovered of his being a Virtuoso, as you call him, poor Man! was about Fifteen Years ago, when he gave me positive Orders to turn off an old Weeding-Woman that had been employed in the Family for several Years. He told me at the same Time, that there was no such Thing in Nature as a Weed, and that it was his Design to let his Garden produce what it pleased; so that you may be sure it makes a very pleasant Show as it now lies. About the same Time he took a Humour to ramble up and down the Country, and would often bring Home with him his Pockets full of Moss and Pebbles. This you may be sure gave me a heavy Heart; though at the same Time I must needs say, he had the Character of a very honest Man, notwithstanding he was reckon'd a little weak, till he begun to sell his Estate, and buy those strange Baubles that you have taken Notice of. Upon *Midsummer-Day* last, as he was walking with me in the Fields, he saw a very odd coloured Butterfly just before us. I observed, that he immediately changed Colour, like a Man that is surprised with a Piece of good Luck, and telling me, that it was what he had looked for above these Twelve Years; he immediately threw off his Coat, and followed it. I lost Sight of them both in less than a quarter of an Hour; but my Husband continued the Chace over Hedge and Ditch till about Sun-set, at which Time, as I was afterwards told, he caught the Butterfly, as she rested her self upon a Cabbage, near Five Miles from the Place where he first put her up. He was here lifted from the Ground by some Passengers in a very fainting Condition, and brought home to me about Midnight. His violent Exercise threw him into a Fever, which grew upon him by Degrees, and at last carried him off. In one of the Intervals of his Distemper, he call'd to me, and after having excused himself for running out of his Estate, he told me, That he had always been more industrious to improve his Mind than his Fortune; and that his Family must rather value themselves upon his Memory as he was a wise Man, than a rich one. He then told me, That it was a Custom among the *Romans* for a Man to give his Slaves their Liberty when he lay upon his Death-Bed. I could not imagine what this meant, till after having a little composed himself, he ordered me to bring him a Flea which he had kept for several Months in a Chain, with a Design, as he said, to give it its Manumission. This was done accordingly. He then made the Will, which I have since seen printed in your Works Word for Word. Only I must take Notice, that you have omitted the Codicil, in which he left a large *Concha Veneris*, as it is there called, to a Member of the Royal Society, who was often with him in his Sickness, and assisted him in his Will. And now, Sir, I come to the chief Business of my Letter, which is, to desire your Friendship and Assistance in the Disposal of those many Rarities and Curiosities which lie upon my Hands. If you know any one that has an Occasion for a Parcel of dry'd Spiders, I will sell them a Penhyworth. I could likewise let any one have a Bargain of Cockle-Shells. I would also desire your Advice, whether I had best sell my Beetles in a Lump or by Retail. The Gentleman above-mentioned, who was my Husband's Friend, would have me make an Auction of all his Goods, and is now drawing up a Catalogue of every Particular for that Purpose, with the Two following Words in great Letters over the Head of them, *Auctio Gimcrackiana*. But upon talking with him, I

'begin

'begin to ſuſpect he is as mad as poor Sir *Nicholas* 'was. Your Advice in all theſe Particulars will 'be a great Piece of Charity to,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Elizabeth Gimcrack.

I ſhall anſwer the foregoing Letter, and give the Widow my beſt Advice, as ſoon as I can find out Chapmen for the Wares which ſhe has to put off. In the mean Time, I ſhall give my Reader the Sight of a Letter which I have received from another Female Correſpondent by the ſame Poſt.

Good Mr. Bickerſtaff,

'I Am convinced by a late Paper of yours, 'that a paſſionate Woman (which among the 'common People goes under the Name of a 'Scold) is one of the moſt unſupportable Crea-'tures in the World. But alas! Sir, What can we 'do? I have made a Thouſand Vows and Reſo-'lutions every Morning to guard my ſelf againſt 'this Frailty, but have generally broken them be-'fore Dinner, and could never in my Life hold 'out till the Second Courſe was ſet upon the Ta-'ble. What moſt troubles me is, that my Hus-'band is as patient and good-natur'd as your own 'Worſhip, or any Man living can be. Pray give 'me ſome Directions, for I would obſerve the 'ſtricteſt and ſevereſt Rules you can think of to 'cure my ſelf of this Diſtemper, which is apt to 'fall into my Tongue every Moment. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant, &c.

In Anſwer to this moſt unfortunate Lady, I muſt acquaint her, That there is now in Town an ingenious Phyſician of my Acquaintance, who undertakes to cure all the Vices and Defects of the Mind by inward Medicines, or outward Applications. I ſhall give the World an Account of his Patients and his Cures in other Papers, when I ſhall be more at Leiſure to treat upon this Subject. I ſhall only here inform my Correſpondent, That for the Benefit of ſuch Ladies that are troubled with virulent Tongues, he has prepared a Cold Bath, over which there is faſtened, at the End of a long Pole, a very convenient Chair, curiouſly gilt and carved. When the Patient is ſeated in this Chair, the Doctor lifts up the Pole, and gives her Two or Three total Emerſions in the Cold Bath, till ſuch Time as ſhe has quite loſt the Uſe of Speech. This Operation ſo effectually chills the Tongue, and refrigerates the Blood, that a Woman, who at her Entrance into the Chair is extreamly paſſionate and ſonorous, will come out as ſilent and gentle as a Lamb. The Doctor told me, he would not practiſe this Experiment upon Women of Faſhion, had not he ſeen it made upon thoſe of meaner Condition with very good Effect.

Errata: *In the Motto of* Saturday's *Tatler, for* Procaces, *read* Solutos.

Advertiſements.

*** There is now to be delivered to Subſcribers, by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew near Stationers-Hall, The Second Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; in Octavo, on a fine Royal and Medium Papers.

MOrning-Gowns *for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoes (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.*

*** There being juſt finiſh'd, The Antiquities of St. Peter's, or the Abbey-Church of Weſtminſter, containing all the Inſcriptions and Epitaphs upon the Tombs, Monuments and Graveſtones, with an Account of the moſt eminent Perſonages, and their Coats of Arms truly emblazoned, which renders this the moſt perfect Book of Heraldry yet extant; ſome one or other of moſt Families in England of any Note being interred in this Cathedral: And for the further adorning and compleating this Work, the Publication will be deferred one Month from the Date hereof; that if any Perſons, whoſe Relations have Monuments erected in this Church, will be pleaſed to ſubſcribe Two Guinea's, they ſhall have ſuch Monuments curiouſly engraven by the beſt Hands, and a Book neatly bound and gilt preſented to each Subſcriber, ſeveral Perſons of Quality having already ſubſcribed. Thoſe Plates that are engraven, as likewiſe the Book, may be ſeen at J. Pemberton's at the Buck and Sun againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleetſtreet, by whom Subſcriptions are taken in. N. B. No Subſcriptions will be taken in after the Time above mention'd

*** Juſt publiſh'd, An eaſie and ſafe Method for Curing the King's Evil. With ſeveral Obſervations of great Uſe and Service to People afflicted with that Diſtemper. To which is added, a Specimen of Succeſs, in a faithful Relation of ſundry Cures on Men, Women, and Children. In a Letter to a Friend. The 4th Edition, with Additions. By William Vickers, M. A. Printed for S. Manſhip at the Ship againſt the Royal Exchange, Cornhil, and A. Collins at the Black Boy againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet.

THis is to give Notice, That the Prizes of Mr. Coxe's Sale of the Houſe in Gloceſter-ſtreet, and Plate, &c. (which was drawn on Monday, Tueſday, and Wedneſday, the 4th, 5th, and 6th Inſtant, in the Great Room in York-Buildings) with the Numbers to which they belong, will be printed off, and to be had at the Houſe Numb. 14. in Gloceſter-ſtreet aforeſaid, on Saturday next, and on Monday following the Prizes will be delivered out to the Fortunate.

MR. Stockton's Sale of Jewels, Plate, &c. being near full, Notice is hereby given, That Tickets are to be had at 2 s. each at the ſaid Mr. Stocton's, at the Bell in Hengetta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; at Mr. Amſon's, a Goldſmith, at the Ring near Salisbury-Court, Fleetſtreet; at Mrs. Fowks's, a Milliner, next Door to the Rummer Tavern at Charing-Croſs; and at Mr. Marriot's, a Shoemaker, at the White Hart in the Poultry. There are but 12 Blanks to a Prize, 500 Prizes, and the higheſt Prize 100 l. Note, 'tis to be drawn by Wheels and Pariſh Boys, and is the faireſt and moſt advantagious Propoſal of this kind ever publiſh'd.

MR. Guthridge's Twelvepenny Sale of Goods, over againſt Norfolk-ſtreet in the Strand, that was to have been 9 Blanks to a Prize, is to be all Prizes, and no Blanks, and to be drawn the 12th Inſtant. All that have a mind to be concerned, are deſired to take out their Tickets ſpeedily. The Particulars are to be ſeen at the Place above-named. The Goods are, a Silver Tankard, a Houſe-Clock and Caſe, Two Silver Watches, with Silver Chains and Seals; a Silver Corral, with a Silver Chain and Whiſtle, large Silver Salts, 100 Lots of Silver Tea-Spoons, 160 Lots of Silver Salt-Spoons, large Silver Spoons, Silver Snuff-Boxes, Silver Sciſſer-Caſes, Silver Dram-Cups, and other Goods of Value. At the Day appointed, every one concerned may draw themſelves, and take their Prizes with them. The laſt Ticket that's to be drawn ſhall have 6 Silver Tea-Spoons beſides their Prize, where every one concerned may have ſomething for their Money. No Toys to be in at all. The Glaſs that the Tickets are in to be ſealed up every Night until all be drawn. The Sixpenny Sale of all Prizes to be continued at the Place above-named.

TWenty Pounds for Sixpence, at Mrs. Ogle's againſt Montague-Houſe; a Catalogue of Plate and other valuable Goods, the higheſt Prize a Silver Tea-Kettle, Lamp, and Tea-Pot, Value 20 l. ſeveral of 5 l. 4 l. 3 l. 2 l. the loweſt Prize 5 s. Tickets to be deliver'd, at 6 d. each Ticket, at Mrs. Ogle's, where the Goods may be ſeen to the Satisfaction of all People: As alſo at Mr. Sedgwick's, Hair-Cutter, in the Strand; at Mr. Green's, a Hatter, in the Borough of Southwark; at Jo's Coffee-houſe, in Hatton-Garden; at the Widow Hobs's Bake-houſe in Chicheſter-Rents; and at Mrs. Carter's, a Butter-Woman, in Clare-Market, by Clement's-Inn. To be drawn very ſpeedily.

A Sale of Plate to be diſpoſed of by Way of Lots, at Mrs. Smith's, Milliner, in Red-Lion-ſtreet, Holborn, next Door but one to the Nag's-Head; 2000 Tickets to be drawn, 9 Blanks to each Prize. The higheſt Prize 10 l. 10 s. the loweſt 5 s. A Silver Tea-Pot, Lamp and Caniſter; a Silver Mug, a Silver Porringer, Gold Rings, Gold Ear-Rings, and other Things of Value; all Plate, and almoſt full. The firſt and laſt Ticket that is drawn, if a Blank, they ſhall have a large Silver Spoon each. Tickets to be delivered at the Place aforeſaid, at 1 s. each Ticket, at the Talbot-Inn in Whitechapel, at the Globe in Hungerford-Market, and at Mr. Tomlen's, a Barber, in New-ſtreet in Shoe-lane.

NOtice is hereby given, That the Sale of Goods which are to be ſeen at Mrs. Edward's Houſe in George-ſtreet in York-Buildings, will be drawn on Tueſday the 12th Inſtant, at Mr. Humes's Dancing-School, in Thrift-ſtreet near Soho-ſquare, there being but few Tickets left, which are to be diſpoſed of at 1 s. each, at the Place aforeſaid.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.